381 433 amounts. The production index of the chemical industry, calculated in this manner and already cited in the previous chapter, shows, converted to the standard of the basis year 1931, the following course:

1931	1932	1934	1935	1936	1937
100.0	93.6	146.2	131.0	146.3	171.0

The recession in 1932 was induced chiefly by the decline of soap and fertilizer production. The jump in 1934 was prompted by the foundation of the rubber goods factory in the preceding year. The setback in 1935 was caused by the repeated shrinkage of fertilizer production and the transitory stagnation of rubber goods production.

8. The Leather and Hide Industry.

282 433 464 In the leather and hide industry in 1937, 1 096 workers or 3.5% of the total number of industrial workers were employed. Its percentage share in the volume of engine horse-power amounted to 1.8%; the share in gross production value 4.3%; and in net value of the industrial production of Lithuania, 2.2%. The lower net value rate is due to the high raw material share.

In pre-war Lithuania the leather industry employed nearly 1 500 workers. The present position is therefore, notwithstanding the growth during recent years, still below the pre-war level. On the other hand, more collateral branches are springing up which did not formerly exist, such as fur manufacture, leather ware production, and the bristle industry. Structural variations since 1927 are illustrated in the following comparison:

	1927		1931			1937		
	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H. P.
Total	40	657	36	693	2 617	51	1 096	2 313
Including: Leather Output	26	538	22	555	·	22	751	·
Leather Ware Production	1	6	5	29	·	11	78	·
Fur Manufacture	1	5	—	—	—	4	107	·
Bristle Industry	4	43	6	53	·	9	112	·

The leather industry is the sole industrial branch of Lithuania in which mechanization not only has made no progress but the capacity of whose engine horse-power has even declined. The foregoing table likewise shows that the number of undertakings in leather production since 1927 has decreased and since 1931 has remained stationary. Its staffs have, however, increased by 40%. The remaining branches reveal a rapid development tempo, especially fur manufacture.

Comparative production figures, i. e. both quantity and value data, are available only in a more restricted sense for the leather industry. Since, however, more than 80% of the total production value of this industrial branch accrues to it, the somewhat more animated development of newly-created collateral branches cannot substantially influence the general contingent outlook.

The quantity data on the recovery of the most important kinds of leather since 1931 are collated in the following table:

	1931	1932	1934	1935	1936	1937
Sole Leather (in tons)	998	703	1 154	957	1 125	1 366
Chrome leather (in 1000 square feet)	2 149	3 093	2 476	3 443	3 907	4 454
Russia Leather (in tons)	290	264	159	166	319	339
Inner sole Leather (in tons)	225	186	128	217	226	224

The average production index of the leather industry, calculated with regard to the remaining less important kinds of leather, and appraised in accordance with the gross value coefficient, gives the following figures (basis year 1931):

1931	1932	1934	1935	1936	1937
100.0	80.5	91.6	104.9	141.3	193.3

Sole leather and chrome leather play the most representative rôle, their coefficients on an average constituting 80% of the total value amount of leather production. The somewhat divergent course of the production curve of both these leading

282 433 classes from 1931 to 1935 has partially been reciprocally compensated, which is also expressed in the index figures. The doubling of the scope of production in recent years has also led to a considerable decline of leather imports (in 1933, 59 tons, in 1937, 18 tons), in which connexion a prominent rôle has also been played by tariff policy and import licensing.

9. Electricity Works.

379 433 464 In connexion with the constantly progressing mechanization of industrial concerns, whereby, as was shown in the General Part, the use particularly of electric engines has intensively increased (by 149.4% since 1931), the supply of electric energy, together with the textile industry, is the sole industrial branch of Lithuania whose production ascent since 1929 has suffered no recession even in the crisis years. In 1937, there pertained to these branches (in which also gas supply - Memel - managed by the municipalities, and the exploitation of waterworks are included) 1.6% of the industrial workers; 30.8% of the engine horse-power; 4.0% of the gross production value; and 9.1% of the net value of Lithuanian industrial production. The far higher net value rate is affected by the share of raw material deductions.

The structural development of this branch since 1927 is shown by the following comparative figures:

1927		1931		
No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H.P.
29	648	30	480	22 799

1937		
No. of Concerns	No. of Workers	Capacity of Engines in H.P.
32	523	38 511

379 433 The data of the production statistics on the energy sold in million kilowatt - hours show the following development of our electric current supply since 1931: